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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 /092 W
----------060478 121514Z /44
R 121330Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USUN NEW YORK 229
AMEMBASSY LONDON POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM POUCH
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJ: BLACK SECURITY POLICEMAN ASSASSINATED

REF: A. DURBAN 591 B. DURBAN 513 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURBAN PRESS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 12 THAT DETECTIVE SERGEANT LEONARD NKOSI (32) OF S.A. SECURITY POLICE WAS ASSASSINATED IN HIS HOUSE IN DURBAN AFRICAN TOWNSHIP OF KWAMASHU NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 10. NKOSI, WHO PRESS SAID HAD PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN RECENT BREAKING UP OF ANC-S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY TERRORISM NETWORK IN NATAL (REF A), DIED ALMOST INSTANTLY AS UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS PUMPED SEVERAL AUTOMATIC FIREARM ROUNDS THROUGH HIS BEDROOM WINDOW. HIS WIFE WAS ALSO SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

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WM ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, BEFORE BECOMING POLICEMAN NKOSI WAS ACTIVE IN ANC FROM 1963-70. IN 1963 HE REPORTEDLY TRAVELED WITH JOSEPH NDULI, ONE OF TEN DEFENDANTS IN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED PIETERMARITZBURG ANC TRIAL (REF B), TO DAR ES SALAAM WHERE THEY UNDERWENT TERROR TRAINING AT THE LUTHULI TRAINING CAMP. HE LATER ALLEGEDLY SPENT A YEAR TRAINING IN TERRORIST TACTICS IN AN ANC MILITARY CAMP IN

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THE SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER HE WAS LATER CAPTURED BY
RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES WHILE ON HIS WAY BACK TO SOUTH
AFRICA.

3. NKOSI JOINED SECURITY POLICE IN 1970, APPARENTLY AFTER
A CHANGE OF HEART. HE SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE EVIDENCE IN A
NUMBER OF TERRORISM TRIALS, LATEST BEING THE PIETERMARITZ-
BURG TRIAL WHERE HE INCRIMINATED NDULI AND OTHERS IN
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES FROM 1963-70. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE THAT
TESTIMONY AND HIS OTHER ANTI-ANC ACTIVITIES RESULTED IN HIS
BEING "ON THE ANC'S DEATH-LIST FOR A LONG TIME."

4. COL. FRANZ STEENKAMP SECURITY POLICE COMMANDER IN DURBAN,
ORDERED A HUNT FOR THE KILLERS AND SAID POLICE WOULD NOT REST
UNTIL THEY WERE FOUND. MINISTER OF POLICE JIMMY KRUGER
REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS SHOCKED BY THE KILLING AND ADDED THAT
SEVERAL SECURITY POLICEMEN HAVE RECEIVED DEATH THREATS RECENTLY.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THIS TO BE AN ANC ACTION ALTHOUGH
THAT GROUP THUS FAR HAS NOT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. ONE
PREDICTABLE EFFECT OF THE ASSASSINATION WILL BE THAT BLACK
WITNESSES IN "TERRORISM"-TYPE TRIALS WILL NOW FEEL
THEMSELVES EVEN MORE ON THE SPOT, SANDWICHED BETWEEN
POLICE PRESSURE ON THE ONE HAND AND POSSIBLE BLACK
RETRIBUTION ON THE OTHER. ASSUMING ONE BLACK LIBERATION
GROUP OR ANOTHER DOES CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY, GROUP'S IMAGE
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MAY ACQUIRE INCREASED STATURE IN BLACK EYES IN VIEW OF
SUCCESSFUL ACTION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM MANY BLACKS
WOULD REGARD AS A TURNCOAT TO CAUSE OF BLACK LIBERATION.
FARBER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ASSASSINATION, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACK SECURITY POLICEMAN ASSASSINATED
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF, (NKOSI, LEONARD)
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